

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-12 ADP-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 CIEP-02 INT-08 OMB-01

GSA-01 OEP-01 AID-20 /133 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ ISM: JCCURRAN: RDM

4/26/73 EXT. 22231

APPROVED BY EB/ ICD: JBKYLE

AF/ C: WAHAYDEN

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P R 261709 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078677

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, US, GB

SUBJECT: STOCKPILE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 70365

1. CONSULTATIONS INDICATED REFTEL WERE HELD IN DEPARTMENT APRIL 17 WITH GABONESE CHARGE AKANDA. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS EB/ ISM DIV CHIEF CURRAN.

2. AKANDA WAS GIVEN COPIES OF PRESIDENT'S STOCKPILE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET, DRAFT LEGISLATION AND NEW OEP LIST OF STOCKPILE OBJECTIVES. CURRAN THEN EXPLAINED PROPOSALS TO ACCELERATE EXISTING DISPOSAL PLANS, AS DESCRIBED REFTEL, FOR METALLURGICAL GRADE MANGANESE ORE. DEPARTMENT DATA SHEET WAS ALSO PROVIDED, SHOWING ALL STOCKPILE DATA ON THIS COMMODITY CONTAINED REFTEL AND PRECEDING STOCKPILE DEPTELS.

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3. EXPLAINING THAT THIS CONSULTATION WAS CHIEFLY INTENDED CONVEY INFORMATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOG, DEPARTMENT URGED THAT GABONESE EMBASSY MAKE EVERY EFFORT RESPOND TO USG PROPOSALS WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS OF THIS MEETING, SO THAT STATE MAY RESPOND TO GSA WITHIN AGREED DEADLINE.

4. PRESENT DISPOSAL PROGRAM PERMITS UNLIMITED SALES, BUT

RESTRICTS GSA TO DELIVER NO MORE THAN 300,000 TONS PER YEAR, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT US CONSUMPTION. NEW PROGRAM FOR REST THIS FISCAL YEAR, 750,000 TONS DELIVERED, WOULD EQUAL ABOUT 37.5 PERCENT US CONSUMPTION AND WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN PART BY ALLOWING PURCHASES ALREADY MADE FOR FY 1974 TO BE DELIVERED IN ADVANCE. DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE THAT PROGRAM THIS SIZE MAY CAUSE GABON ECONOMIC PROBLEM; EARLIER, DEPT HAD ADVISED GSA WE PREFERRED TO OPEN CONSULTATIONS ON RATE OF 500,000 TONS. AKANDA WAS NOT TOLD THIS, BUT WAS TOLD THAT, IN FACT, GSA HAD FIRST PROPOSED RATE OF 1.4 MILLION TONS, WHICH HAD BEEN REDUCED TO 750,000 ON STATE'S RECOMMENDATION.

5. AKANDA SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ( PARA 2 ABOVE) TO LIBREVILLE, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT HE WOULD LOSE VALUABLE TIME IN TRANSLATION AND TRANSMISSION. CURRAN INFORMED HIM THAT ALL DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIOR TO RELEASE OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. AKANDA DID NOT RPT NOT, HOWEVER, REQUEST ANY ASSISTANCE FROM US FOR EXPEDITING COMMUNICATIONS. AKANDA DID EXPRESS GOG'S LONG- STANDING CONCERN ABOUT IMPACT OF STOCKPILE SALES ON GABONESE ECONOMY AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US HAD UNDERTAKEN IN 1972 AT GENEVA MEETING TO LIMIT SALES TO 300,000 TONS DELIVERIES PER YEAR.

6. CURRAN EXPLAINED THAT NO RPT NO SUCH COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE; STATEMENT DESCRIBING PRESENT PROGRAM HAD BEEN PROVIDED USDEL AND PROBABLY ENTERED ON RECORD. ( MEETING REFERRED TO BY AKANDA WAS UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS ON MANGANESE, GENEVA, FEBRUARY 21-24, 1972.)

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7. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S OWN ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE IMPACT OF 750,000 TON PROGRAM ON GABON'S EXPORTS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND GOG REVENUES. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES MANGANESE ORE MAKES UP ONE- FOURTH GABONESE EXPORT EARNINGS. ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY ANY ADVERSE ACTION BY GOG AGAINST US INVESTMENT IN MANGANESE MINES TO " COMPENSATE" FOR ANTICIPATED LOSSES BECAUSE OF STOCKPILE SALES. REPLY

ASAP. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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